



Bureau of Statistics

1991 Aboriginal Peoples Data Northwest Territories

The 1991 Census of Canada included a question about ethnic origin as well as a question regarding registration under the Indian Act of Canada. Following the census, Statistics Canada interviewed a large sample of persons who reported an aboriginal origin or registration under the Indian Act to determine which of these persons also identified with an aboriginal group. This survey is referred to the Aboriginal Persons Survey and provides information for persons identifying themselves as Inuit, North American Indian or Métis. Information from the 1991 census thus refers to persons with aboriginal origins or who are registered under the Indian Act, while information from the Aboriginal Persons Survey refers to persons who identify themselves as part of Canada's aboriginal population.

As shown in Table 1 below, over 1 million persons nationally (3.7 percent) reported an aboriginal origin in the 1991 census, but fewer than 626,000 (2.3 percent) identified with a particular aboriginal group. Among provinces and territories, Northwest Territories has the highest concentration of aboriginal persons with 61.4 percent reporting aboriginal origins and 60.0 percent identifying themselves as Inuit, North American Indian or Métis. Yukon had the next highest concentration of aboriginal persons, followed by Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. In terms of population totals, Ontario had the largest number of persons reporting aboriginal origin and aboriginal identity.

Table 1 Aboriginal Origins and Aboriginal Identity
Canada, Provinces and Territories, 1991

	Total Population	Aboriginal Origins		Aboriginal Identity	
		Total Reporting	As % of Population	Total Reporting	As % of Population
Canada	27,296,859	1,002,675	3.7	625,710	2.3
Northwest Territories	57,649	35,390	61.4	34,585	60.0
Yukon	27,797	6,390	23.0	4,520	16.3
British Columbia	3,282,061	169,035	5.2	101,135	3.1
Alberta	2,545,553	148,220	5.8	103,645	4.1
Saskatchewan	988,928	96,580	9.8	86,695	8.8
Manitoba	1,091,942	116,200	10.6	99,220	9.1
Ontario	10,084,885	243,550	2.4	114,895	1.1
Quebec	6,895,963	137,615	2.0	56,295	0.8
New Brunswick	723,900	12,815	1.8	5,295	0.7
Nova Scotia	899,942	21,885	2.4	8,815	1.0
Prince Edward Island	129,785	1,880	1.4	570	0.4
Newfoundland	568,474	13,110	2.3	10,030	1.8

Source: 1991 Census of Canada; 1991 Aboriginal Peoples Survey.

This report provides age, sex and aboriginal group information on those individuals who reported aboriginal origins as well as for those who identified with an aboriginal group. Statistics included in this report were obtained from the Statistics Canada publication Aboriginal Data: Age and Sex (Catalogue 94-327). Future releases of aboriginal data will include topics such as mobility and housing, schooling, work and related activities, income and expenses, language and tradition, disability, health, lifestyle and social issues.

**Table 2 Population Reporting Aboriginal Origins, by Aboriginal Group
Canada, Provinces and Territories, 1991**

	Total	(%)	North American Indian	(%)	Métis	(%)	Inuit	(%)
Canada	1,002,675	100	783,980	78	212,650	21	49,255	5
Northwest Territories	35,390	100	11,100	31	4,310	12	21,355	60
Yukon	6,390	100	5,870	92	565	9	170	3
British Columbia	169,035	100	149,570	88	22,295	13	1,990	1
Alberta	148,220	100	99,650	67	56,310	38	2,825	2
Saskatchewan	96,580	100	69,385	72	32,840	34	540	1
Manitoba	116,200	100	76,370	66	45,575	39	900	1
Ontario	243,550	100	220,135	90	26,905	11	5,250	2
Quebec	137,615	100	112,590	82	19,480	14	8,480	6
New Brunswick	12,815	100	11,835	92	975	8	450	4
Nova Scotia	21,885	100	19,950	91	1,590	7	770	4
Prince Edward Island	1,880	100	1,665	89	185	10	75	4
Newfoundland	13,110	100	5,845	45	1,605	12	6,460	49

Note: Counts for specific aboriginal groups do not sum to totals due to persons reporting more than one aboriginal origin.

Source: 1991 Census of Canada.

**Table 3 Population Reporting Indian Registration, by Membership Status
Canada, Provinces and Territories, 1991**

	Total	Member of Indian Band or First Nation	Not Member of Indian Band or First Nation
Canada	385,800	358,345	27,455
Northwest Territories	9,865	9,390	475
Yukon	4,150	3,805	345
British Columbia	77,705	72,100	5,605
Alberta	54,225	50,095	4,130
Saskatchewan	56,710	53,560	3,150
Manitoba	62,635	59,820	2,820
Ontario	70,420	63,325	7,100
Quebec	36,150	33,015	3,135
New Brunswick	4,685	4,385	300
Nova Scotia	7,675	7,475	200
Prince Edward Island	510	460	45
Newfoundland	1,075	930	145

Source: 1991 Census of Canada.

**Table 4 Population Reporting Aboriginal Origins, by Type of Response
Canada and Northwest Territories, 1991**

	Canada	Northwest Territories
Total Reporting	1,002,675	35,390
North American Indian	783,980	11,100
Métis	212,650	4,310
Inuit	49,255	21,355
<i>Single Responses:</i>		
North American Indian Only	365,375	8,665
Métis Only	75,150	2,315
Inuit Only	30,085	18,430
<i>Multiple Responses:</i>		
North American Indian and ...		
Métis	9,395	355
Inuit	655	235
Métis & Inuit	35	15
Non-Aboriginal	379,470	1,250
Métis & Non-Aboriginal	24,470	455
Inuit & Non-Aboriginal	1,530	95
Métis, Inuit & Non-Aboriginal	3,060	25
Métis and ...		
North American Indian	9,395	355
Inuit	305	110
North American Indian & Inuit	30	10
Non-Aboriginal	99,560	995
North American Indian & Non-Aboriginal	24,475	455
Inuit & Non-Aboriginal	675	40
North American Indian, Inuit & Non-Aboriginal	3,060	30
Inuit and ...		
North American Indian	655	235
Métis	305	115
North American Indian & Métis	30	15
Non-Aboriginal	12,915	2,395
North American Indian & Non-Aboriginal	1,530	100
Métis & Non-Aboriginal	675	40
North American Indian, Métis & Non-Aboriginal	3,060	30

Note: Counts for specific aboriginal groups do not sum to totals due to persons reporting more than one aboriginal origin.

Source: 1991 Census of Canada.

**Table 5 Population Reporting Aboriginal Identity, by Aboriginal Group
Canada, Provinces and Territories, 1991**

	Total	(%)	North American Indian	(%)	Métis	(%)	Inuit	(%)
Canada	625,710	100	460,680	74	135,265	22	36,215	6
Northwest Territories	34,585	100	9,805	28	3,895	11	21,035	61
Yukon	4,520	100	4,280	95	190	4	80	2
British Columbia	101,135	100	93,040	92	9,030	9	500	-
Alberta	103,645	100	65,035	63	38,755	37	1,335	1
Saskatchewan	86,695	100	60,005	69	26,995	31	160	-
Manitoba	99,220	100	66,150	67	33,230	33	465	-
Ontario	114,895	100	102,925	90	12,055	10	780	1
Quebec	56,295	100	41,660	74	8,690	15	7,030	12
New Brunswick	5,295	100	5,155	97	100	2	55	1
Nova Scotia	8,815	100	8,590	97	225	3	55	1
Prince Edward Island	570	100	550	96	...	...	...	...
Newfoundland	10,030	100	3,485	35	2,075	21	4,710	47

Note: Counts for specific aboriginal groups do not sum to totals due to persons reporting more than one aboriginal identity.

Source: 1991 Aboriginal Peoples Survey.

**Table 6 Percent Distribution of Total Population and Aboriginal Population, by Age
Canada and Northwest Territories, 1991**

	All Persons	Total	Reporting Aboriginal Identity N.A. Indian	Métis	Inuit
Canada	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
0 to 4 Years	7.0	14.2	14.0	14.1	17.0
5 to 14 Years	13.9	23.7	23.4	23.6	25.5
15 to 24 Years	14.0	19.2	19.4	18.6	20.3
25 to 34 Years	17.8	17.7	17.6	18.4	16.6
35 to 54 Years	26.9	18.0	18.4	18.3	14.2
55 Years & Over	20.4	7.1	7.2	6.9	6.2
Northwest Territories	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
0 to 4 Years	12.8	15.7	14.4	14.5	16.6
5 to 14 Years	20.0	24.3	22.1	20.9	25.8
15 to 24 Years	17.6	20.2	18.6	21.6	20.6
25 to 34 Years	20.3	16.1	16.5	17.8	15.6
35 to 54 Years	22.4	15.9	17.4	18.0	14.9
55 Years & Over	7.0	7.7	10.9	6.9	6.4

Source: 1991 Census of Canada; 1991 Aboriginal Peoples Survey.

**Table 7 Population Reporting Aboriginal Identity, by Age and Sex
Northwest Territories, 1991**

	Total	(%)	North American Indian	(%)	Metis	(%)	Inuit	(%)
Both Sexes	34,585	100	9,805	100	3,895	100	21,035	100
0 to 4 Years	5,445	16	1,415	14	565	15	3,500	17
5 to 14 Years	8,395	24	2,170	22	815	21	5,435	26
15 to 24 Years	6,985	20	1,825	19	840	22	4,340	21
25 to 34 Years	5,575	16	1,615	16	695	18	3,280	16
35 to 54 Years	5,510	16	1,710	17	700	18	3,125	15
55 Years & Over	2,670	8	1,065	11	270	7	1,350	6
Males	17,500	100	4,975	100	2,015	100	10,585	100
0 to 4 Years	2,785	16	740	15	285	14	1,775	17
5 to 14 Years	4,280	24	1,085	22	440	22	2,770	26
15 to 24 Years	3,535	20	925	19	450	22	2,175	21
25 to 34 Years	2,740	16	790	16	360	18	1,595	15
35 to 54 Years	2,755	16	870	17	330	16	1,555	15
55 Years & Over	1,410	8	555	11	150	7	715	7
Females	17,085	100	4,830	100	1,880	100	10,445	100
0 to 4 Years	2,660	16	675	14	280	15	1,725	17
5 to 14 Years	4,115	24	1,085	22	380	20	2,665	26
15 to 24 Years	3,450	20	900	19	395	21	2,165	21
25 to 34 Years	2,835	17	820	17	330	18	1,685	16
35 to 54 Years	2,760	16	840	17	370	20	1,570	15
55 Years & Over	1,265	7	510	11	125	7	635	6

Note: Counts for specific aboriginal groups do not sum to totals due to persons reporting more than one aboriginal identity.

Source: 1991 Aboriginal Peoples Survey.

Notes and Definitions

Random Rounding

- to ensure the confidentiality of census information, numbers in census tables and the aboriginal peoples survey tables are independently random rounded prior to publication. As a result, all numbers in these tables end in the digit 0 or 5 and therefore may not sum.

Early Enumeration

- for most of Canada, census day was June 4, 1991. In Northwest Territories, communities in the Fort Smith Region and the community of Norman Wells in the Inuvik Region were enumerated on June 4, 1991. All other communities in Northwest Territories were enumerated in March 1991.

Population

- count of persons normally resident in Canada; including non-permanent residents and their dependents who are in Canada: (i) claiming refugee status; (ii) holding a student authorization; (iii) holding an employment authorization; or (iv) holding a Minister's permit.
- comparisons between the 1991 census and previous censuses are affected by the inclusion in the 1991 census of non-permanent residents for the first time.

Age

- refers to age at last birthday, as of the census reference date June 4, 1991.
- for Northwest Territories, the count of persons under one year of age is under-reported due to the early enumeration of many communities.

Sex

- refers to male or female.

Ethnic Origin

- refers to the ethnic or cultural groups to which the respondent's ancestors belong.

Registered Indian

- refers to those persons who reported in the 1991 Census that they were registered under the Indian Act of Canada. Excludes institutional residents and population on incompletely enumerated Indian reserves and Indian settlements.
- nationally, registration counts from the 1991 Census are lower than the Indian Register count of December 1991 as published by Indian and Northern Affairs (INAC).

Incompletely Enumerated Indian Reserves and Indian Settlements

- refers to those Indian reserves and Indian settlements where enumeration was not permitted or was interrupted before it could be completed. As well, it includes those reserves or settlements which were enumerated late or where the quality of the collected data was considered inadequate.

Aboriginal Origin

- refers to those persons who reported at least one aboriginal ethnic origin (i.e. North American Indian, Métis, or Inuit) in the 1991 Census. Excludes institutional residents and population on incompletely enumerated Indian reserves and Indian settlements.

Aboriginal Population

- refers to those persons who reported at least one aboriginal ethnic origin (i.e. North American Indian, Métis, or Inuit) or who reported being registered under the Indian Act of Canada in the 1991 Census. Excludes institutional residents and population on incompletely enumerated Indian reserves and Indian settlements.

Aboriginal Identity

- refers to those persons in the aboriginal population who in the Aboriginal Peoples Survey reported as identifying with an aboriginal group, that is, they consider themselves to be North American Indian, Métis or Inuit.

Symbols

- zero
- .. not available
- ... not appropriate